[Mr. R. Rama Varier.]

Marketing of hand-loom products.—The hand-loom weaving industry is passing through great difficulties, mostly on account of the disability in marketing the goods. There are also many handicaps under which the weavers suffer on account of lack of financial resources In order to study the conditions of marketing and suggest methods calculated to bring about a more favourable sale of the wares, based on a knowledge of the conditions obtaining both in the industry and in the market, an Officer was appointed, who visited the most important producing and consuming centres, surveyed the possibilities of the industry and of the marketing and submitted a report of his investigations. The report is at present under the consideration of Government. The abnormal rise in the price of yarn consequent on its export from the State through the agency of profiteering middlemen has been found to be one of the most serious obstacles to the development of hand-loom weaving industry in the State. With a view to adopt a scheme of price control based on the prevailing mill rates, Government propose to prevent the export of yarn from the State until the restoration of normal conditions in the local and foreign markets.

UPLIFT OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES.

33. In consonance with the policy of Government, an increased provision has been made in the next year's budget for the Uplift of Backward Communities and steps have been taken to carry out more intensive amelioration among the backward classes.

MEDICAL.

34. The terrible effects of tuberculosis on the health of the people have become a matter of very serious concern to the Government. A Tuberculosis Hospital is now under construction and is proposed to be opened in Thulam 1117 with an accommodation, for the present, for 50 patients, at Nagercoil, which has a very salubrious climate specially suited for the treatment of this disease.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

35. I shall now pass on to capital expenditure. A sum of Rs 44·20 lakhs has been included under this head in the budget estimates for the next year. Apart from the necessity for minimising expenditure in general, the anticipations have been pitched a little low because these works are expected to make only slower progress than in previous years on account of the difficulty in getting materials and machinery from abroad. Details of the works will be found explained in the Budget Memorandum. I shall just refer to the salient features of the more important works.

COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT.

36. The budget provision for this scheme for the next year is Rs 0·92 of a lakh which will raise the total capital outlay thereon to Rs 12·08

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